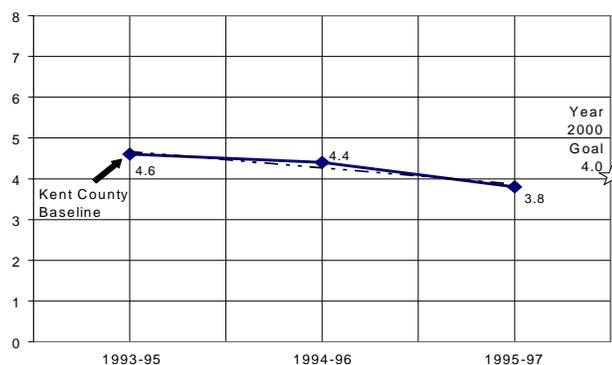


Focus on Substance Abuse

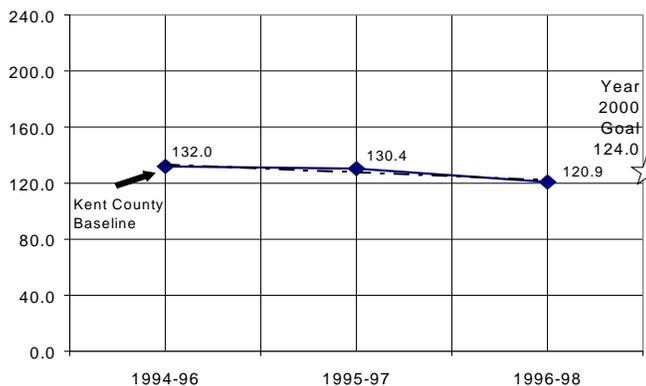
The Community HealthWatch report cards are developed by the Kent County Health Department to present health information that is being monitored by Healthy Kent 2000, a community health committee dedicated to improving our county's health. This report card focuses on Substance Abuse. The Healthy Kent Substance Abuse Implementation Team, a subcommittee of Healthy Kent, has focused their attention on the prevention and treatment of substance abuse in Kent County since the initiative began in 1993. For the third consecutive year, the Implementation Team received monies from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for prevention of alcohol-impaired driving. This year the funds are being used to reach out to local business to promote development of workplace alcohol and drug policies.

Alcohol-Related Crash Deaths



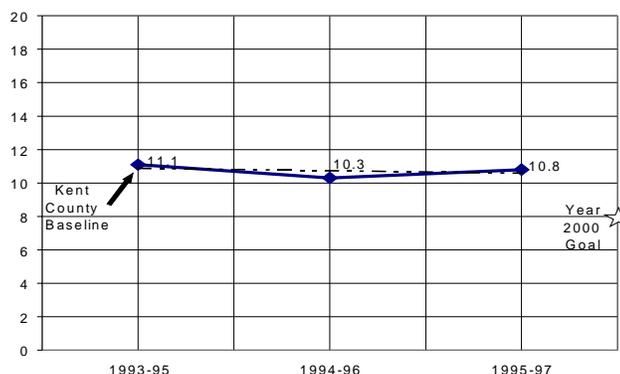
Alcohol-impaired driving contributes to a number of preventable deaths in Kent County annually. Forty percent of all fatal crashes in Kent County were reported to have involved alcohol in 1997. The rate of **alcohol-related motor vehicle crash deaths** in Kent County decreased from 4.6 per 100,000 in 1993-95, an average of 23 deaths, to 3.8 per 100,000 in 1995-97, an average of 20 deaths.

Alcohol-Related Crash Injuries



Alcohol-related motor vehicle crash injuries have a tremendous impact on health, finances, and productivity and impose an enormous hardship on the injured and their families. The rate of alcohol-related motor vehicle crash injuries decreased from 132.0 per 100,000 in 1994-96, an average of 687 persons, to 120.9 per 100,000, an average of 629 persons, in 1996-98, surpassing the Year 2000 goal of 124.0.

Drug and Alcohol-Related Deaths



Drug and alcohol-related deaths are another cause of preventable premature deaths in Kent County. Mortality may be the result of chronic use or abuse of substances. Drug and alcohol-related deaths have remained relatively stable, with an average rate of 11 deaths per 100,000 occurring in 1993-95, and a slight decrease occurring in 1995-97.

All rates are per 100,000 Kent County residents. Data sources: Michigan Department of Community Health; Michigan State Police; National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.